



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

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October 4, 2001

Mr. Randall F. Smith  
Director  
Office of Water  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region X  
1200 Sixth Ave.  
Seattle, WA. 98101

**Re: Columbia/Snake Rivers TMDL**

Dear Randy:

As you know officials from your Region have been meeting with their State and Tribal counterparts to develop total dissolved gas and temperature TMDLs for the Columbia River and Snake River mainstems.

These are, clearly, large and complex TMDLs not only geographically, but also due to the number of sovereigns and interested parties. We have appreciated EPA's involvement to date, and believe we have arrived at a workable delineation of work effort that will lead to successful development and implementation of meaningful TMDLs. As you know, the States have committed to taking the lead on development of total dissolved gas TMDLs, and EPA committed to take the lead on temperature.

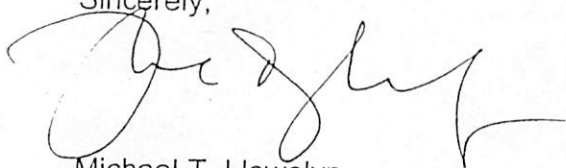
Given EPA's intimate involvement with the TMDL, we are requesting that EPA not only develop, but also issue the **temperature** TMDL in the State of Oregon. The reasons for this request are threefold. First, due to the Interstate nature of these waterways, we believe EPA is in the best position to coordinate efforts between the States. Secondly, EPA has considerable expertise in developing a temperature TMDL for these large rivers. The RBM-10 model developed by Region X is an excellent tool for this TMDL and the technical expertise on this model resides with EPA. Thirdly, The States individually lack the resources to undertake this work. With the number of TMDLs we are currently developing under our court agreements including the total dissolved gas TMDL, we are spread very thin.

This letter should be considered a request under Section X of our TMDL Memorandum of Agreement with EPA dated February 1, 2000, for EPA to issue the temperature TMDLs for the mainstem Columbia and Snake Rivers in the State of Oregon. It is our

intention that the State will take the lead in developing an implementation plan for the EPA-issued TMDLs. My understanding is that the Washington Department of Ecology has similar concerns and constraints, and will separately request that EPA issue these TMDLs in the State of Washington.

For these reasons, we would appreciate EPA continuing its efforts on development of the temperature TMDL, and in finally issuing it in the State of Oregon. Please contact Russell Harding of my Division if you have any questions concerning this request. His telephone number is (503) 229-5284.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Llewelyn  
Division Administrator

Cc: Rick Parkin, EPA  
Dave Peeler, WDOE  
Dave Mabe, IDEQ